

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated November 18, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

It is noted that the Office Action did not acknowledge all of the references submitted in the July 20, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and attached PTO form 1449. Copies of the original IDS, forms 1449 including the US references that were not acknowledged in the Office Action, are attached. Acknowledgement of all of the references submitted with the July 20, 2001 IDS is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the abstract of the disclosure. Specifically, the Office Action states that the abstract of the application has two paragraphs. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended abstract obviates the objection to the abstract. Specifically, the amended abstract deletes the second paragraph in its entirety.

The Office Action objects to the specification. Specifically, the Office Action states that the substitute specification filed on April 19, 2001 was not entered because of the informalities. The Office Action states that the substitute specification filed with the preliminary amendment on April 19, 2001 is not consistent with the marked up copy. In addition, the Office Action states that the specification does not contain section headings and page numbers.

It is respectfully submitted that the new substitute specification submitted herewith, obviates the objection to the specification made in the Office Action. Specifically, the marked up version of the substitute specification and the plain copy of the substitute specification are consistent with each other. The substitute specification also includes paragraph numbers, page numbers and section headings.

Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b) (3) and 1.125(c) and that the substitute specification does not contain new matter.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 11-17 because of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that claims 11-14 and 17 are amended in accordance to the suggestions contained in the Office Action. Thus, the above amendments to claims 11-14 and 17 obviate the objections to claims 11-17.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 11-17 is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Actions indication that claim 18 is allowed and claims 11-17 would be allowable if they are rewritten to overcome the claim objections above.

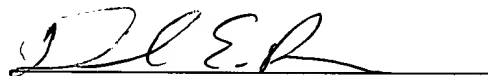
Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to claims 11-14 and 17 overcome the claim objections. Thus, claims 11-18 are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully requested that all of claims 11-18 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Substitute Specification  
Marked-up copy of Specification  
Amended Abstract